

5. COLLABORATIVE PLANNING WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on developments since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Social Development.

Through the August round of Council meetings the Council agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Social Development on Collaborative Planning. The aims of this project are:

To ensure to the greatest extent possible that local government and central government agencies adopt an informed and consistent approach to the planning of services in Christchurch and where appropriate share their plans and engage in “joined-up” planning.

To ensure that opportunities for co-operation between the Council, central government agencies and non-government organisations are taken up for the benefit of the people of Christchurch.

To use this project as a basis for further learning about what works to improve interagency collaboration at the regional level and to develop tools, techniques and processes for collaboration that may be transferable to other areas in New Zealand.

Since then the Social Policy Interagency Network (SPIN) has agreed to be the steering group for the collaborative planning exercise. SPIN is a grouping of the Regional Managers (or their equivalents) of the main government social policy agencies in Christchurch including the Department of Corrections, Child Youth and Family, Department of Work and Income, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Pacific Affairs, Te Puni Kokiri, the Police, and Housing New Zealand. Also included is the Canterbury District Health Board. SPIN is chaired by Superintendent Sandra Manderson, the District Commander of the Police. Getting SPIN to agree to be the steering group was a positive step forward because it meant that all the major government social agencies in Christchurch were committed to working on the collaborative planning exercise.

Progress on the project has included structured interviews with the Regional Managers designed to inform a model of collaborative planning by providing a definition of the role and functions of SPIN and also to identify priorities which will provide a focus for the collaborative planning work. The result of this work was that SPIN agreed to an initial priority of developing a pilot joint collaborative plan around the theme of “Canterbury Youth”.

Since then Bruce Ash from the Ministry of Social Development who is working on this project approximately half time, has been collecting from the member agencies the necessary information about the programmes or initiatives they are involved in with young people. The purpose of collecting this information is to provide a foundation for joint government planning and to identify opportunities for policy changes and the deployment of new collaborative efforts to improve outcomes for youth.

There is also a Wellington based officials’ committee that is involved with this project and Bruce is working closely with them. In particular it is necessary to ensure that work in Christchurch is kept within a framework compatible with moves in Wellington.

Early in the New Year when SPIN has done more work on the options for progressing the project it is anticipated that the chair of SPIN will meet with the Chair of the Community Plans Special Committee, and this is likely to be followed by a seminar with the Committee at which the findings to date and the options for collaborative planning across the agencies will be presented. This will provide an opportunity for the Special Committee to seek clarification and to discuss their priorities for progressing the work.

Bruce Ash will be attending the meeting and will provide an oral update including an update on the SPIN meeting of 2 December.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received and that it be noted that the Council looks forward to establishing a long term working relationship on this project.